

TITLE: ZOO CARETAKER (temporary)
LEVEL: GRADE 6 \$12.84hr - \$18.33hr
DEPARTMENT: BUTTONWOOD PARK ZOO

FUNCTION: The work involves responsibility for providing all primary care for the Buttonwood Park Zoo animal collection and doing general maintenance, housekeeping, and grounds keeping work for the zoo facility.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED: Works under the direct supervision of the Head Zoo Keeper or designee.

SUPERVISION EXERCISED: Supervision may be exercised by an employee in this class when training new employees or when directing the activities of summer employees, zoo volunteers.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Daily observation of animals, gathering of vital signs and statistics for each animal, correlation of all observations with cumulative knowledge of behavior, and daily independent implementation of proper zoo management techniques as authorized by the zoo's administrative staff. A Zoo Caretaker would be the first to recognize any changes in the health of the animals.

Inspects all animals under care frequently for motor ability impairment, blood loss or other observed discharges. Looks for signs of fighting or stress; sexual behavior; pregnancy; the presence of ectoparasites such as fleas, ticks and mites; the presence of lesions or tumors; abnormal behavior patterns; or other signs of illness.

Reports injuries and illness of animals to the Head Zoo Keeper or Director or Zoological Services.

Provides thorough, accurate and complete record keeping in daily reports, treatments sheets, feed logs or other records as required by the Head Zoo Keeper or the zoo's veterinarian.

May assist in the diagnosis, subsequent treatment and extended care of sick or injured animals including the administration of medication and physical therapy.

Assists in the capture and restraint of any and all animals for the purpose of diagnosis of illness, administration of medication, confinement for transportation, or the shifting of animals between exhibits.

Aids in the design of animal diets through daily observation and analysis of the animals' food intake and metabolism to determine the diet's nutritional effectiveness. May do diet research for animals under his/her responsibility.

Examines fecal material and urine for signs of abnormal functioning of the digestive tract, the presence of parasite infestation, and the ability to metabolize foodstuffs.

Feeds, waters animals under care; cleans and disinfects food and water dishes.

Cleans animal exhibits, pens, cages and barns; disinfects animal areas and cages; cleans buildings and public areas; removes all waste to dumpster.

Observes public to prevent undue harassment or injury to animals and insures the safety of the public.

Answers questions from the public about animals, making use of acquired knowledge through independent research and in-service training, as well as through practical work experience. May give educational animal demonstrations (both on and off zoo grounds) and zoo tours.

Performs manual work in cleaning, repair, construction and general care of animal exhibits, buildings and grounds to promote the comfort and safety of animals and visitors to the zoo.

Performs routine grounds keeping work such as, cutting grass, raking leaves, picking up debris and snow removal within the zoo area.

Performs routine maintenance work for the zoo facility; including painting, minor carpentry work; keeps drains unclogged; repairs fencing; patches concrete.

Cares for trees, shrubs, plants and flowerbeds on zoo grounds.

May drive motor vehicles to deliver hay or feed to animal areas, to pick up supplies from sources outside zoo grounds, or to transport animals to the veterinary staff or other zoos.

May hand rear, handle for gentleness training or participate in training programs for animals under care. (This may include 24 hours a day care in administering specialized feeding schedule and other vital maternal care. This may also be extended on a progressively limited basis, over a period of up to two months, providing for any and all needs of the juvenile animal. Appropriate dietary behavior and habitat research may also be required).

Prepares animal diets by reading diet sheets and placing food on appropriate dishes, scrubs and disinfects food preparation area.

Directs the activities of new employees, seasonal employees, and volunteers in their responsibilities.

NECESSARY KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES: Good working knowledge of animal care and feeding practices. Good working knowledge of materials, methods, and equipment used in cleaning and caring for animals, buildings and grounds.

Acute observational skills regarding the concepts of normal and abnormal animal behavior, stress, shock, distance, territoriality, and social dominance.

Respect, interest and liking for wild animals and their comfort and well-being.
Superior skills in handling wild animals.

Ability to courteously and tactfully deal with members of the public with regard to situations potentially injurious to the animal collection or the public.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Requires six months' paid experience; or education toward a degree at a recognized school with a major in Animal Science, Veterinary Medicine, Zoo Management or Zoology may be substituted for the required experience on the basis of one year of education for three months of experience.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: Valid Massachusetts driver's license. Operates a motor vehicle on a regular basis. Must have a Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) check, mandatory by MGL Chapter 6 Sec. 172C.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS: The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of the job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

While performing the duties of this job, the employee is regularly required to use hands to finger, handle, feel or operate objects, tools, or controls and reach with hands and arms. The employee frequently is required to stand and talk or hear. The employee is frequently required to walk; sit; climb or balance; stoop, kneel, crouch, or crawl; and taste or smell.

The employee must frequently lift and/or move up to 50 pounds and occasionally lift and/or move more than 100 pounds. Specific vision abilities required by this job include close vision, distance vision, color vision, peripheral vision, depth perception, and the ability to adjust focus.

WORK ENVIRONMENT: The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

While performing the duties of this job, the employee usually works in outside weather conditions. The employee occasionally works near moving mechanical parts and is occasionally exposed to wet and/or humid conditions. The employee may work in high, precarious places and be exposed to fumes or airborne particles, risk of electrical shock, and vibration. The employee may be exposed to toxic or caustic chemicals.

The noise level in the work environment is usually moderately loud.

SELECTION GUIDELINES: Formal application; rating of education and experience; oral interview and reference check; job-related tests may be required.

The duties listed above are intended only as illustrations of the various types of work that may be performed. The omission of specific statements of duties does not exclude them from the position if the work is similar, related or a logical assignment to the position.

The job description does not constitute an employment agreement between the employer and employee and is subject to change by the employer as the needs of the employer and requirements of the job change.